



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

FEB - 6 2006

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty
Governor
State of Minnesota
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

Thank you for your December 30, 2005, letter concerning the 2007 Farm Bill. It is good of you to share your thoughts with us in this regard.

Thank you also for providing us with information on Minnesota's Clean Water Initiative and Clean Water Cabinet and on the State's Clean Water Legacy Act. We look forward to receiving your final conservation policy recommendations relative to the Farm Bill later on this year.

You are to be commended for all you are doing to protect Minnesota's natural resources and for your appreciation of the importance of the conservation and environmental aspects of the next Farm Bill. Please be assured that the ideas you express will be given full consideration as the Department develops its proposals for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns", is positioned above the typed name and title.

Mike Johanns
Secretary